



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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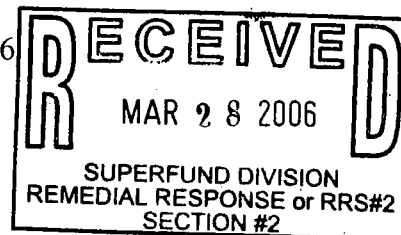
US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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March 22, 2006



Ms. Laura Ripley
U.S. EPA, Region V
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Mail Code: SR-6J
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Ripley:

Re: Site Reassessment
Lusher Street Groundwater
Contamination Site
EPA ID: IND982073785

Site Reassessment Request

Staff of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is requesting that the Lusher Street Groundwater Contamination site currently listed in CERCLIS be reassessed. The site has been assigned a No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP) status. The site originated around a residential well located at 1619 Avalon Street in Elkhart, Indiana. In 1988, elevated levels of trichloroethene (TCE) (approximately 5 $\mu\text{g/l}$) were detected in the drinking water from this well. Carbon filtration was installed on the well and IDEM staff has maintained it for the past 18 years. In October 2005, the raw untreated water from this well was sampled to determine if operation and maintenance (O&M) activities need to continue. Sample results reveal that TCE levels in the well are presently 700 $\mu\text{g/l}$; a significant increase. The following contaminants and their respective concentrations, noted in parenthesis, were also detected in this sample: 1,1-dichloroethane (5.5 $\mu\text{g/l}$), 1,1-dichloroethene (2.5 $\mu\text{g/l}$), cis 1,2-dichloroethene (8 $\mu\text{g/l}$), trans -1,2 dichloroethene (.37 $\mu\text{g/l}$), and 111-trichloroethane (58 $\mu\text{g/l}$). A review of Elkhart's sewer and water records indicate that as many as 26 residential wells are located down gradient and side gradient from the contaminated well at 1619 Avalon. The residents utilize these wells for drinking water. (Refer to the Site Location map accompanying this letter along with the Lusher Avenue Drinking Water table.)



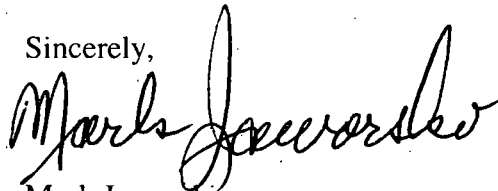
Laura Ripley
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During a reconnaissance site visit on January 12, 2005, Site Investigation staff observed the presence of 17 different facilities along Lusher Street that could conceivably be the source of the groundwater contamination. The 17 facilities are as follows: Fabex Industries (metal fabrication for the recreation vehicle -cargo industries), Sturgis Iron and Metals (scrap metal handler), Patrick Industries (manufacturer of paneling for the mobile home industry), Elkhart Plating (silver plating and contract service company for the musical instrument and aerospace industries), Walerko Tool and Die (manufacturer of various tool and dies), Conrail (train rail yard), Airgas (handler of canister gases), B&S Services (manufacturer of musical instruments), Jason Industries (manufacturer of truck caps), Action Auto Salvage (auto salvager), Goshen Tape (music/compact disc manufacturer), Elkhart Hinge (manufacturer of door hinges), Cullip Industries (tool and die manufacturer for the recreational vehicle industry), Quad 4 Injection Molding (plastic molding facility for the recreational vehicle industry), and F&F Harness Systems (manufacturer of wire and cable, security video, medico video, audio/ visual products). Additional facilities exist south of Lusher Street that could also be a contributing source of TCE in this area.

No sampling in this area has been conducted since 1988. Based on this information, IDEM staff recommends that the site be reassessed and the 26 down gradient wells be sampled to determine if they have been impacted.

Should you have any questions regarding the contents of this correspondence, please contact me at (317) 233-2407.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Jaworski", written in a cursive style.

Mark Jaworski
Site Investigation Section
Office of Land Quality

MJ/sb

Lusher Street Site Map



Lusher Avenue Site
Elkhart, Indiana
Elkhart County

Indicates Residential Well

0 55 110 220 330 440 Meters